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Weather
Forecast

Today

High:91
Low:61

Saturday

High:95
Low:63

Sunday

High:98
Low:64

FRIDAY

Aug. 22, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 46, No. 33

Fort Riley
Post

Spec. Richard Davis, HHR, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery and the rest of 1st Brigade train for an upcoming deployment. See Page 7.

Staff Sgt. Marty Kerekes, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade, escorts a suspect out of a building during a training exercise.

The suspect, Pfc. Justin Hogner, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor played the role of a suspicious resident in an Iraqi neighborhood.

The exercise helped prepare the soldiers for missions they may be faced with when they deploy.



PostSkidmore



PostSkidmore

Spec. Justin Terrell, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery, keeps a watchful eye during a training exercise recently. Terrell and other members of the battalion honed their skills in securing a convoy passing under an overpass.



PostSkidmore

Sgt. Amado Saluda, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, secures an overpass as a convoy passes underneath.

Realistic training prepares 1st Brigade

By Ryan D. Wood

Staff Writer

It was a nightmare situation that every convoy leader dreads. An overpass up ahead was crowded with onlookers wanting to watch America's soldiers as they came through. As the first element of the convoy moved toward the overpass, a single man broke from the crowd and threw a grenade into the oncoming soldiers and then opened fire with an automatic weapon.

The reaction was instant. Squad leaders directed suppressing fire from an overlook position. A heavy machine gun mounted on the lead vehicle

opened up on the assailant and a squad swung around and took the overpass from the side, 'killing' the assailant and securing the area. With speed and practiced grace, the overpass was secured, and the onlookers stood amazed at the show they had just witnessed.

This encounter was very different from the situations soldiers are encountering daily on the streets of Iraq. This encounter was on the streets of Fort Riley, and the crowd of onlookers was various media from around the state who had been invited to watch as elements of the 1st Brigade Combat Team trained in preparation for their imminent deployment to the CENTCOM theater of operation.

Soldiers from 1st BCT had actually been planning on a rotation to the National Training Center in California, but as Col. Buck Connor, commander, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, put it, with the new orders they are just trading one desert for a bigger, hotter one.

Training for all of the units involved has intensified and changed in accordance with their new mission, said Connor, such as the convoy attack and building clearing missions, which were undertaken later in the day.

"(Training allows) recognizing when we are in those danger areas. We are going to spend the next two weeks training to do that. Making sure that these troops recognize the danger.

Recognize what they are most likely to see. If we know that there is an area that we are likely to be ambushed, you isolate that area prior to passing it with the convoy. By doing that, you take away the enemies' chance to launch an attack upon you."

Soldiers involved in the training understand the significance of what they are learning and its importance to their safety once they reach their overseas destination.

"These lane training exercises started on Monday, and it has gotten us very well trained for our deployment. The repetition of securing overpasses and searching buildings in a simulated environment helps everything become second nature," said Spec. Leonard

Brill, Company A, 1st Bn., 5th Field Artillery. "I am sure it will be a lot more intense once we get overseas, but I feel confident that I know what to do and how to do it because of the drills we have done in the field here at Fort Riley."

Local commanders and tacticians have been updating their training on a daily basis in order to better train for the environment that soldiers are facing every day in country.

"This is to test their reaction to these potential tasks which could occur," said Lt. Col. Mike Kabrey, battalion commander, 1st Bn., 5th FA. "A lot of these activities or events set up

See Training Page 2



PostHender

Pfc. Gary Book, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, tags his desert camouflage uniforms before turning them in to the company to have name tags sewn on and to be chemically treated with insect repellent.

Protective firefighting equipment donated to Iraqi fire departments

By John S. Wollaston

Staff Writer

BAGHDAD IRAQ - Firefighters, it is often said, are the only ones who "run into a burning building while everyone else is running out." The vivid scene of New York City firefighters rushing into the burning World Trade Center towers in their hi-tech gear exemplifies that image.

Now imagine rushing onto a burning building without the gear to protect you.

That is exactly what firefighters in Baghdad have been doing since the fall of the capitol in early April. But thanks to the donations by several firefighting departments in the U.S., they now have the protective garments they need when entering a burning

building.

The donations of the turnout gear, heavy fireproof jackets, pants, gloves and rubber boots, was made possible by Maj. John Faria, the executive officer for the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, part of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. Faria, a volunteer firefighter in his home state of Rhode Island for the last 20 years, noticed that the firefighters in the Gariya and Kadamia sections of Baghdad, had the trucks but lacked the protective gear needed to fight fires. Upon investigation, Faria found out that it wasn't lack of support from the former regime that caused the firemen not to have the basic gear. "It was looters who took all their stuff," he said.

"During the fall of Baghdad, these guys would go out to fight the fires and while they were gone, looters would come in and take

everything.

"While we were taking Baghdad, the firefighters and the doctors and nurses are the only ones who didn't abandon their posts," Faria explained. "Everyone else left."

According to Faria, the firefighters in Baghdad have continued to fight fires despite the lack of protective clothing.

"They told me that what they've been doing is wrapping themselves in wool blankets soaked in cold water, staying in the building as long as they can, then come out and someone else goes in."

Faria called his father, a 40-year veteran firefighter also from Rhode Island who then sent the word out that help was needed. Since then, donations have been coming in.

So far, two volunteer fire departments, one

See Donation Page 2

Training

continued from page 1

in these lanes are based on information that we have got back from theater already, so we are trying to build as much of that realism into the training here. This is an opportunity for young leaders to execute what they will be expected to perform in country."

As the day progressed, members of the 2nd Battalion, 24th Armor and the 331st Signal Company drilled on clearing buildings and performing searches in a group of abandoned structures located near the unit's headquarters building.

"What we want to do is not make experts of every soldier in

the brigade doing this because this is a job that's a little different than our war time mission," said Maj. Rich Creed, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor. "We want to give them a familiarity so that they are at the walking stage and they are not going to be surprised by anything that they run into in country."

"Make no mistake about it, it is very difficult," said Connor regarding his soldiers and the training that is required of them to successfully complete their assigned tasks.

"What it takes is trained and disciplined soldiers. You discipline yourself not to shoot indiscriminately. You discipline your-

self in your convoy procedures. You discipline yourself not to upset the local customs and traditions and you discipline yourself simply with your presence in the area."

"As with all training, you have to think of it as a real situation and as an act of war," said Spc. Mark Vallem, 331st Signal Company. "That is hard to do when you are at Fort Riley, Kan., but it is something you have to do."

Connor exuded confidence in his troops and their ability to successfully accomplish the mission that had been put before them, but he also knew where the training started and why.

"This is how you start - teams just don't go to the Super Bowl and start playing," said Connor. "It takes weeks and months of practice and an organization that understands what is going on. The same is true here."

"For this organization, more than 3,000 soldiers in six battalions, you start with these soldiers right here. You start with a platoon. You start with a single truck. You start with that private, so that he understands exactly what he is supposed to do and you build the organization from the bottom up, not the top down. By doing that, they will all react well," he said.

Grunt

By Wayne Ulden



Donation

continued from page 1

in Central Falls and the other in Lime Rock, R.I., have sent gear that, while it was about to be turned in for newer gear at their departments, was still useable enough to benefit the fire fighters in Baghdad.

According to Faria, it would have been nearly impossible for the Iraqi firemen to purchase the equipment on their own. A brand new turnout gear set would run in excess of \$3,000 per set.

"The used stuff still runs about \$1,500 a set," he added.

Faria and his father are continuing to accept donations from fire departments in their home state. Their hope is that they'll be able to make more donations in the near future.

PWOC plans kick-off

The Protestant Women of the Chapelare hosting a Fall kick-off Sept. 4, at the Morris Hill Chapel. The kick-off begins at 7 p.m.

Also, sign up for the fall weekly studies. Free child care will be available.

For more information please call Althea Brown at 717-3032 or Juli Kelly at 784-8333 for more information on the up coming studies.

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RED/Post August



Patriot Act important to war against terrorism

By K.L. Vantran
AFPS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, 2003 - The bombing of the United Nations building in Iraq confirms the worldwide terrorist threat is real, said U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft.

"Our enemies continue to pursue ways to murder the innocent and the peaceful," he said in an address to the American Enterprise Institute here Aug. 19.

"They seek to kill us abroad and at home. But we will not be deterred from our responsibility to preserve American life and liberty, nor our duty to build a safer and more secure world."

Tools provided in the Patriot Act, passed by Congress in October 2001, help the Justice Department fulfill its responsibility to protect the American people, added Ashcroft.

The act began to "tear down walls that cut off communication between intelligence and law enforcement officials," he said. "It gave agencies like the FBI and CIA the ability to integrate their capabilities."

The attorney general cited an

example. Several persons have been indicted in Portland, Oregon, for allegedly conspiring to travel to Afghanistan after the Sept. 11 attacks to fight against American forces, he said. The investigation began when a local sheriff in another state shared information with the Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force that one of his deputies had gotten from a traffic stop. Recently one of the defendants, Maher

Hawash, pled guilty to illegally providing support to the Taliban and agreed to cooperate with the government. He faces a prison term of seven to 10 years.

A congressional report on the 9-11 attacks found that U.S. law enforcement relied on "outdated and insufficient technology," according to Ashcroft. The Patriot Act gave law enforcement improved tools. Before the act, investigators had to get a different wiretap order every time a subject changed cell phones. Now investigators can get a single order that applies to all phones a suspect uses.

The report also determined there was not enough cooperation among federal, state and local

law enforcement agencies. The act expanded the capabilities of Joint Terrorism Task Forces.

"The Lakhani investigation would not have been possible had American, Russian and other foreign intelligence and law enforcement agencies not been able to coordinate and communicate the intelligence they had gained," stressed the attorney general.

Ashcroft was referring to alleged arms dealer Hemant Lakhani, who was charged with attempting to sell shoulder-fired missiles to terrorists for use against American targets. After a long undercover investigation in several countries, Ashcroft said, Lakhani traveled to Newark, N.J., last week and was arrested with two alleged financial facilitators, as he allegedly prepared to finalize the sale of the first missile.

"The painful lessons of Sept. 11 remain touchstones reminding us of government's responsibility to its people," said Ashcroft. "Those lessons have directed us down a path that preserves life and preserves liberty."

Talk Around Town

"What is your favorite part of the first day of school?"



"My favorite part of the first day of school is meeting all of my old friends and meeting my new teachers."

Allyce McDowell
8th Grader



"My favorite part of the first day of school was meeting my new teachers and the new students. I really like to help them out, and I've already made a new friend."

Laura Berg
8th Grader



"My favorite part of the first day is seeing my friends that I didn't get the opportunity to see over the summer."

Liane Swisher
8th Grader

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FORT RILEY POST

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Briefs

Cub Scouts

The Cub Scouts will be hosting a school night for scouting at the Fort Riley Elementary School on Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. All Scouts are encouraged to bring a parent and come join the fun.

Piano Lessons

Child and Youth Services is offering piano lessons for children ages 5-18 at the Fort Riley Teen Center beginning in September. Classes will run once a week for one half hour. The instructor for this year's classes has a bachelors degree in music and education and has eight years of teaching experience in both public schools and private music lessons. For more information please contact CYS at 239-4847

Leave Donation

Several Fort Riley employees are experiencing a personal or a family medical emergency and are facing a period of more than 24 hours of Leave Without Pay (LWOP). The following individuals have requested donated leave.

ACTIVITY CONTROL NUMBER	
DOL	CPACLT0322
G3	CPACLT0319
G3	CPACLT0320
MEDDAC	CPACLT0320
MEDDAC	CPACLT0318
MEDDAC	CPACLT0321
MEDDAC	CPACLT0324
DENTAC	CPACLT0323
DRM	CPACLT0309
DES	CPACLT0305

Procedures:

To donate annual leave to any of the individuals listed above, please complete OPM Form 630.

This form is located on the CPAC Intranet web site under "Forms."

Completed forms should be forwarded to: Sonja Elzy or Gerlean Baylor, CPAC. For additional information on leave donation procedures, please contact Sonja Elzy at 239-6080

Hunter Education

The Outdoor Recreation Center, building 9011, will host a Hunter Education Class beginning on Sept. 11. The class will consist of three sessions. The first session will begin on Sept. 11, at 5:30 p.m., and will last approximately four hours. The second session will begin on Sept. 12, at 5:30 p.m., and will last approximately four hours. The third session will begin at 8:30 a.m., on Sept. 13, and last approximately four hours. Class size will be limited to 35 students. Registration will be at the Outdoor Recreation Center. People must register in person. There is a \$10 deposit per student, that is refundable when the student arrives at class on Sept. 11. If there are any questions, please call the Outdoor Recreation Center, at 239-2363 or 239-2249.

Case Lot Sale

A worldwide case lot sale is coming to the Commissary Sept. 6, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. This huge sale will be the third annual "World's Biggest Case Lot Sale" with most of your favorite products available by the case. Don't miss this one! It's a great opportunity to stock the family pantry.

SAEDA Classes

The Fort Riley director of security will be holding the required Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the U.S. Army classes Sept. 22 - 26, at the Patton Hall auditorium, building 200. This is required training for all soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians. The times for classes are: Sept. 22, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Sept. 23, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Sept. 24, 2 p.m.; Sept. 25, 2 p.m. and Sept. 26, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Veteran Affairs Services

The Administrative Law Office is requesting information from soldiers who have had dealings with the private company "Veteran Affairs Services" or their subsidiaries. To help with the enquiry, call 239-2717.

CYS Registration

Registration has begun for Child and Youth Services instructional classes in dance, gymnastics, martial arts, cheerleading and piano. Classes begin on Sept. 2.

The cost for all classes except piano and gymnastics exhibition class will be \$25 per month. Piano will be \$45 per month.

Gymnastics exhibition class will be \$35 per month.

Walk-in enrollment is Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., for those who have already been registered with CYS. A sports physical will be required this year. You will have up to 60 days after classes begin to turn in your sports physical.

A parent and instructor meeting will be held Aug. 25, 7 p.m., at the Teen Center, building 5800, for those who have enrolled. This will give parents a chance to meet with instructors to find out more details on their class. Call CYS, 239-9478 or 239-4847 for more information.

Construction

Fort Riley's new Waste Water Treatment Plant is under construction. This plant will replace the three existing plants, which were built in the 1940s and 1950s. As part of the construction, the contractor will need to close some roads in order to install new underground pipes. For the next 50 days, Caisson Hill Road starting just north of Irwin Army Community Hospital will be closed. For more information, call 239-6942.

Thrift Shop

Are you getting ready to move? Let the Fort Riley Thrift Shop help you get ready for the packers. Sort through your belongings and call the Thrift Shop to come and pick up any donations (in good condition) from your house.

Visit the Thrift Shop in building 267, Stuart Ave., 784-3874. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

The Shoppe

The Shoppe has the gifts you need to say "Farewell" or "Thank You" to someone special. Come and see what The Shoppe has to offer! The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Ave., 239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday.

MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of East Manhattan meets the third Friday of each month, 9:30 a.m., at the First Christian Church (not affiliated). You can enjoy fun with other moms, playgroups, projects and tours throughout the month. Children are welcome at all activities. For more information,

call Christa Vizner (785)494-2026. Annual dues are \$18, but you can try it out without obligation.

Enlisted Spouses Club

The Fort Riley Enlisted Spouses Club is a service organization designed for Enlisted Spouses E1 - E9, active duty, retirees or widows. The club helps support Fort Riley and surrounding communities with donations to worthy causes as well as the donation of time and services to projects.

The second purpose of ESC is to foster and promote recreational and social activities among the members while providing a support system for the enlisted spouses of Fort Riley.

For more information on the club or upcoming meetings, call 784-3191.

Gate Closed

On Aug. 27, the in-bound lane of Grant Ave., will be closed because of construction. The out bound lane will remain open. The lane will be closed approximately 60 to 75 days.

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Aug. 22, 2003

Port Riley Post

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U.S. Senator Sam Brownback visits Fort Riley

By William Biles
Staff Writer

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback visited Fort Riley Aug. 13, to talk to operation Iraqi Freedom veterans in order to get their views on how the war went.

Brownback attended a luncheon with the soldiers of the 82nd Medical Company inside the 1st Brigade's dining facility to discuss how the soldiers felt about their deployment and what they thought how the Iraqi people were reacting to their presence.

"My primary mission in coming here, is to talk with soldiers who have served in Iraq and to try and get from them, lessons learned and how they felt we (Americans) were being received by the Iraqis," said Brownback.

"My experience, as far as for the Senate, is that we are getting a bias reporting - negatively - in Iraq by the media and I want to hear it directly from the soldiers... what they think on how it is going."

Brownback cut right to the chase when he opened the floor to the soldiers from the 82nd Med. Co.

"What I would like to hear from you (soldiers), is for you to tell me about the conditions you faced in Iraq from your experience there. What do you think is going right, what do you think we should be doing differently," said Brownback.

The air-medics, then relayed their experiences.

"Generally, aviation units need to have better facilities for their equipment, which they didn't

have there," said 1st Sgt. Michael Mears, 82nd Med. Co. "The conditions were brutal for the helicopters, from having to land in the sand. The equipment showed that."

Brownback mainly listened to the soldiers as they gave him an After Actions Review of their exploits and then gave some examples of what could make the next experience there even more tolerable.

"As far as improving the conditions for the soldiers, if we could update some of the things, like tents, it would make the living conditions a little bit better over there," was one example giving by Mears.

Other soldiers told the Senator if they had more tools to bring with them, it would help them be more self-sufficient during the mission.

Before Brownback turned the floor over to the soldiers, he commended them on their job overseas and stated it is important that they were there.

"What we've been trying to do there (Iraq) is nothing short of changing the entire region for a democracy and an open society. You guys are the tip of the spear in getting that done," said Brownback. "It will be a long-time activity, but the philosophy is that the road to peace in the Middle-East is through democracy and not dictatorship. You have really taken the brunt of the first term, of a long-term policy shift, that we are hopeful that it will lead toward peace."

The Senator's presence gave the 82nd Med. Co. soldiers a feeling of excitement and of

pride.

"Everyone was excited about meeting the Senator and getting to tell him the 82nd Med. Story," said Maj. James Schwartz, commander, 82nd Med. Co. "I consider it a privilege to be able to talk to the Senator and get to tell our story about what we did in Iraq. We find it a real honor for him to come here and talk to us and get to know what we did and the conditions we worked in."

Schwartz and his soldiers weren't alone in the feeling of being honored.

"I have a great gratitude for the soldiers and their family's for serving the country," said Brownback. "I am extremely grateful to the soldiers and their family's who have served in this incredibly important mission."

After the lunch, Brownback was able to see some of the training the soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team were performing prior to their upcoming deployment to the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility.

"The training I've seen looks like it will help the soldiers with their missions in Iraq. I've seen the seriousness the soldiers were taking while training, for obvious reasons, and I thought it looked like a good exercise," stated Brownback.

At the end of the day, Brownback commended the post and the surrounding community.

"This is a great fort and it is one I hope the military will use more extensively in the future. It has a great history to it and it's a great training facility with an excellent projection of force on a rapid basis."



Post-Biles

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback talks to soldiers from the 82nd Medical Company outside their hangar at Marshall Army Air Field during his visit to Fort Riley, Aug. 13.

Deployment stipends continue

WASHINGTON (Army News Service.) — Soldiers deployed to high threat areas will continue to receive Imminent Danger Pay, and Family Separation Pay when the new fiscal year starts Oct. 1, said Department of Defense officials Aug. 15.

In April, Congress authorized an increase in both Family Separation Allowance, from \$100 to \$250, and Imminent Danger Pay, from \$150 to \$225.

These increases were part of the FY 03 DoD Supplemental Funding. This funding was temporary and will expire Sept. 30 at the end of this fiscal year.

If Congress doesn't vote to renew the increases in Family Separation and Imminent Danger Pay, the DoD will use "other authority available to the department to make up for any short-falls," a DoD press release stated.

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envision

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COTTONWOOD THEATERS
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Black Only
1st AUGUST RUNNING

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Black Only
worship times TF

DAILY UNION
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Black Only
Antique Block

DPCA
3 x 8"
Black Only

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Learning to keep the peace



Spc. April Vitale, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade posed as an Iraqi woman, adding a different twist to suspect searches during a training exercise for the 1st Brigade.

1st Brigade soldiers prepare for any scenario

By Michael Watson

Staff writer

Many dangers exist on the battlefield.

Snipers could hide, waiting for American soldiers to pass under highway overpasses, or they could booby trap their homes where troops search for information about some of Iraq's most wanted.

These are some of the situations that soldiers have faced in Iraq, and they are situations that the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division soldiers are training for to make sure they know what to do in theater, Col. Buck Connor, brigade commander, said.

"Guerrilla war is very difficult," he said. "There are many things that soldiers need to be aware of when they

get in theater. The more prepared the soldiers are to handle these situations, the better off they will be."

Knowing what to expect in theater will help the soldiers liberate the Iraqi people and return home safely, Connor said. Soldiers already searching homes and traveling the desert roads and highways in convoy have sent back plenty of information so that the 1st Brigade soldiers can train for those same situations that soldiers overseas are already facing.

"It is always an advantage knowing what to expect," Connor said. "We always ask about what is currently going on in Iraq, and that information has helped us prepare for our deployment."

If the troops make mistakes, they regroup and learn from those mistakes. During the training, the instructors

were there to say, "Okay, you shot the enemy. Now what are you going to do?"

"That is what we want the troops to be thinking about - completing one objective and moving right onto the next, without having to stop and think about what to do," Connor said.

Once the soldiers arrive in theater, their training would need to be second nature, Spc. Leonard Brill, Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, said. There will not be time for instruction.

"The repetition of these lanes training exercises has made sure that we learn everything possible to help us complete our mission overseas," he said.

"If we make a mistake, we learn from it. By the time we deploy, we should be working on instincts -

everything should be second nature."

Although, he is currently training on his home turf, Brill also said it is important that he treat these training exercises in Fort Riley barracks, offices and overpasses as the real thing.

Brill said because once the soldiers arrive in theater, they will need to rely on the urban warfighting skills learned at home.

To make sure the scenarios are as real as possible, they prepare in full combat uniform, complete with protective mask, weapon, Kevlar and body armor and use conditions currently seen in Iraq, Lt. Col. Oscar Hall, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor commander, said.

"My battalion has been taking all the lessons learned to provide a more realistic training," he said. "We change

our scenarios whenever we get new information about what the conditions are really like in theater."

For instance, Hall said the brigade has learned the necessity for arming convoys with heavy machine guns and the importance of planning a detailed route when their convoys snake through the desert roads or highways in the Central Command theater of operations.

"We have learned the types of traps that opposing forces are setting along the roads, and we have tried to coordinate these techniques into our training," he said.

"When we get in theater, soldiers of the 1st Brigade will have the best training possible to ensure that they know what to do in case they run into hostile forces."

Practice makes perfect, he said.



Staff Sgt. Ray Hammond, Company A, 1st battalion, 5th Field Artillery asks Pfc. Justin Hogner, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, questions through an interpreter about his home. Hogner played the part of an Iraqi citizen suspected of being sympathetic to Saddam Hussein.



Spc. Antoine Leslie, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery stands ready to respond to his fellow soldiers searching the building he is guarding. The training exercise is preparing 1st Brigade soldiers for their deployment to the CENTCOM area of responsibility next month.



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery keep a watchful eye for anything suspicious during a training exercise.



Staff Sgt. Mart Kerekes and Spc. Antoine Leslie, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, keep an eye out for terrorists during a building search training exercise preparing them for a deployment next month to the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

ACAP expands program to better help soldiers find jobs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — The Army Career and Alumni Program is introducing several initiatives focused on helping soldiers and civilians find jobs after they retire or leave the Army.

The expanded programs will help retirees, demobilized reservists and civilian employees affected by base realignment programs, said James Hoffman, ACAP director.

ACAP recently announced a policy that provides lifetime job assistance for Army retirees and eligible family members.

This change extends ACAP services beyond the normal 180

days after separation.

"The service is provided on a space-available basis," Hoffman said. "With a valid retired identification card, retirees can continue to receive employment assistance in preparing a competitive resume as well as learning important job search skills."

Later this month, ACAP will establish Demobilization Resource Center to receive telephonic requests for assistance during the demobilization process from Reserve Component soldiers and unit commanders.

All soldiers who have completed at least 180 days of continuous active duty and who are being

released from active duty are required to receive preparation counseling and completion of the Preparation Counseling Checklist, DD Form 2648.

The center, which will be located at the U.S. Army Personnel Command, will respond to all inquiries pertaining to eligibility for transition benefits. It will also provide referral to service providers such as Departments of Labor and Veterans affairs, as well as Army Reserve and National Guard Transition assistance offices.

"Once the resource center makes contact with the RC soldiers and determines that addi-

tional ACAP services or referrals are necessary, the soldier will be referred to the closest ACAP center for continued assistance for up to 180 days after demobilization," Hoffman said.

In addition, to prepare for the large numbers of soldiers who will be demobilized and released from active duty, ACAP is preparing to reinforce the counselor field workforce with additional staff at targeted ACAP demobilization installations.

The reinforcement will help to ensure that (ACAP) can meet the demand to provide mandatory preparation counseling and employment assistance to those

who requested additional assistance prior to being released from active duty, Hoffman said.

Installations conducting demobilization processing where ACAP does not exist such as Fort McCoy, Wis., will have a temporary satellite office established to assist in the demobilization process.

At other demobilization locations such as Fort Dix, N.J., and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, ACAP will provide temporary assistance either through travel of ACAP staff or training of assigned staff by ACAP staff.

"Civilians who are leaving the government workforce as a result

of realignment or commercial outsourcing are eligible to receive ACAP Services as well," Hoffman said.

ACAP recently added a workshop targeted for Army civilians who are impacted by Reductions in Force, A76 studies and force realignment, ACAP officials said. Upon request, ACAP staff will present the comprehensive workshop to assist civilians for their return to the public or private sector.

Information about ACAP and its services can be accessed at the revised ACAP home page www.acap.army.mil.

Fall hunting season quickly approaching

By Alan Hynek

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Although Kansas is still in the grips of summer, it is not too early to start thinking about the fall hunting seasons. Many things have changed on this post over the years, but one mainstay has always been an abundance of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

It really is no coincidence that Fort Riley is known as one of the premier hunting and fishing installations within the Army. Just the fact that we are located in north central Kansas is an excellent start. You would be hard pressed to find an area that has more species of game animals and in good numbers. Add to that some good management over the years and Fort Riley has become known as a destination for outdoor activity.

By far, the two most unique species that can be hunted on Fort Riley include elk and the greater prairie chicken.

For the 2003 season, the

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks awarded 32 elk permits, which were drawn from nearly 1,700 applicants. If you are lucky enough to draw an elk tag in Kansas, your chance of success is pretty good.

Fort Riley currently has a population of 75 to 100 elk on post. There are also small herds and single elk that can be found on private property near post, although their numbers are unknown.

The season dates for elk hunting on Fort Riley is Oct. 1 to Dec. 31.

Fort Riley is one of the last

strongholds of the greater prairie chicken. Although these prairie grouse have declined throughout their range, their population index on Fort Riley has remained fairly stable and has actually increased in recent years. It is

one of the largest publicly owned tracts of land where prairie chickens can still be hunted. The season dates for hunting prairie chicken consists of Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and Nov. 1 to Jan. 31. The bag limit is two.

The other two species of upland game found on Fort Riley are probably a better-known quarry to most hunters. Ring-

necked pheasant and bobwhite quail can be found in good numbers on post. While both of species have experienced declines in overall numbers the last few years, indications are they should be at least little stronger this year. Both species can be hunted from Nov. 8 to Jan. 31. The daily bag limit is eight for quail and four for pheasant.

A couple of species that don't get much recognition, but make excellent table fare include rabbit

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Hunter Education Class in September

The Outdoor Recreation Center, building 9011, will host a Hunter Education Class beginning on Sept. 11. The class will consist of three sessions. The first session will begin on Sept. 11, at 5:30 p.m., and will last approximately four hours. The second session will begin on Sept. 12, at 5:30 p.m., and will last approximately four hours. The third session will begin at 8:30 a.m., on Sept. 13, and last approximately four hours. Class size will be limited to 35 students. Registration will be at the Outdoor Recreation Center. People must register in person. There is a \$10 deposit per student, that is refundable when the student arrives at class on Sept. 11. If there are any questions, please call the Outdoor Recreation Center, at 239-2363 or 239-2249.

PRAIRIE HAWG CYCLE & LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
Prairie Hawg

SUNFLOWER BANK- SALINA
3 x 10"
Black Only
3x10, 8 to 8 A D

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 3"
Black Only
sunset out 2

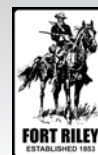
ED SCHRAM DODGE
3 x 14"
Black Only
sunset, male



In Step on Channel 2

6:30 a.m. In Step
 8 a.m. In Step
 Noon In Step
 6 p.m. In Step
 10 p.m. In Step

Fort Riley Community



August 22, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Oregon-California Trail Symposium held on Fort Riley

By Ryan D. Wood

Staff Writer

The history of the West and Fort Riley came alive on Saturday as 220 members of the Oregon-California Trails Association spent the last day of their seven-day symposium touring the post and reaching back to experience the history of Fort Riley and its close connection to the settling of the West and the Oregon Trail.

The day started with bus tours of the post and many historically significant points spread out over Fort Riley including a "ghost tour." People in various historic homes on post have reported ghosts and other supernatural events repeatedly. Stories and information gathered for a book on the subject, written by members of the Fort Riley Historical and Archeological Society, were presented as the group toured the buildings involved.

A tour of Custer house, a quarters historically accurate to the time that Custer was stationed at Fort Riley and an historical reenactment at the Territorial Capitol were also part of the day's events.

As conference members moved to Calvary Parade Field, they were treated to an afternoon of exploration, as the museum and local historical attractions were available along with military vehicles such as an Abrams tank and a HUMV which attendees were able to enter and experience from the inside. Some members of the group even toured in period clothing adding a touch of yesterday to a group wanting to preserve history for the future.

The Fort Riley Honor Guard was on hand to lend a taste of military life in the Old West with a camp set up for people to tour, and a cavalry demonstration of horsemanship and weapons skills, which thrilled the crowd.



Michael Bigley, 346th Military Police Company helps Oscar Hall Jr. get a feel for the MK 19 grenade machine gun during the Oregon-California Trails Association Symposium.

One of Fort Riley's early purposes was to provide protection and escorts to the travelers on both the Santa Fe and Oregon trails. Units such as those the Honor Guard was modeled after were instrumental in that task.

Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

spoke to the group along with Kansas Congressman Jim Ryun and other local dignitaries.

The afternoon concluded with speakers at Patton hall and a culminating barbecue to end the weeklong conference.

The historical importance of Fort Riley and its ties to emigration and settling of the west were not lost on this preservation minded group.

"This organization, established in 1983, is here to educate and preserve the history of the immigration movement of our forefathers from the Eastern states through the Midwest and on into Oregon

and California," said Vern Osborn, committee chairman of this year's convention. "It is important because it was a tremendous part of our history. The settlement of the west, the movement of thousands of people, we had upwards of 400,000 people who took the trails across the prairies."

In addition to their preservation efforts, education is also a major goal for the organization.

"We communicate with the property owners and the local civic organizations. We have meetings and open up yearly symposiums for the local communities and we also bring in the children," said Osborn. "We try to educate and go into the classroom. If you want to educate people to a particular interest and the importance of our past and our history, people usually get interested and involved and then they charge out and provide that protection and that preservation."



Beating the Heat

With temperatures climbing past the century mark, finding a way to cool down is on the top of many people's lists. Joshua Edwards, 5, found a way to cool off and at the same time, make a big splash, while friends Alyssa Lopez, 3, and Austin Tipton, also 3, play in the background.

Take precautions while driving, using cell phones

By Kim Levine

Staff Writer

The use of cellular phones has been on the rise in America for several years. While they offer many advantages, primarily convenience, cell phones can also be unsafe if used irresponsibly.

Recently many states and jurisdictions have passed legislation to prevent people from using cell phones while driving.

"Cell phone use is classified as a driver distraction," said Paul Inman, chief, Safety Division, Directorate of Environment and Safety. "Dialing while driving, taking notes while talking and driving and having arguments while on the phone are some of the major distractions from cell phones."

Fort Riley's safety division reported that according to the National Safety Council, using a cell phone, whether hand held or hands-free, while driving leads to poor driver performance. Cell phone use impairs a driver's decision-making ability, and distracts their concentration.

While Kansas has no regulations prohibiting cell phone use,

the state does have inattentive driving and reckless driving laws that can be applied if cell phone use is a contributing factor to an accident or unsafe driving behavior, said Inman.

"If you must call someone, wait until you are at a stoplight before dialing, install and use a hands free set."

Paul Inman
Chief, Safety Division

"Drivers should purchase hands free sets for their vehicles which use a speaker system, and

not purchase carphones," said Inman.

While cell phones can be vital in the case of emergency situations, precautions can be taken to make them safer to use while driving.

"If you must call someone, wait until you are at a stoplight before dialing, install and use a hands free set," said Inman. "If you must talk safely, pull to the side of the road and turn on your hazard lights."

Inman also suggested getting acquainted with the features on the cell phone and positioning the cell phone within easy reach. "Each cellular phone user has an important responsibility when operating a vehicle: to make driving the first responsibility," said Inman.

Cell Phone Tips

If you must talk while on the road, safety advocates recommend you follow these simple safety tips:

- * Park or pull off the road if possible. If you must answer a call, let the caller know you're driving and suspend the call.
- * Make sure your phone is easy to see and reach so you don't have to take your eyes off the road.
- * Get to know your phone's features to prevent fumbling.
- * Avoid stressful or emotional calls.
- * Avoid calls while driving in hazardous conditions.
- * Do not take notes or look up numbers while driving.
- * Try to plan your calls before you begin your trip.
- * Always disconnect your cell phone when using jumper cables and do not use a cell phone while pumping gas.
- * Use your cell phone when valuable seconds count toward reducing emergency response time. Dial 911 for emergencies. It's a free call. Be prepared to give your exact location, the nature of the emergency and your name and cellular number, including area code.



Women's Equality Day to be celebrated Tuesday

Aug. 26, date set aside to commemorate 19th Amendment

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Fort Riley will be observing Women's Equality Day, commemorating the tremendous positive changes wrought by the women's movement. This year's theme is "Celebrating women's right to vote."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer A. Boyd, installation equal opportunity advisor, the date for the celebration was set in honor of a major step in the women's equality movement taken on that day in 1920 when the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to

vote, was ratified. This was due to a long struggle by women suffragettes for the right to vote. In 1971 the U.S. Congress designated Aug. 26 as a day to commemorate the passage of the 19th amendment and to celebrate the continued efforts towards equality, said Boyd.

"The reason why we celebrate Women's Equality day is to commemorate the tremendous positive changes wrought by the women's movement," said Boyd. "These women planned and organized elections, wrote petitions, lobbied, paraded and broke new ground in every field imaginable for women. Both women and men are today living the legacy that those women fought for back

then. Women are continually improving in every area."

This year's guest speaker, Dr. Gwendolyn S. O'Neal, a professor from Kansas State University, will highlight celebrations. The event will be held at the Barlow Theater from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Along with the lecture, there will be a food tasting and information displays.

"We should really care about this celebration because women have played a part in our (Army) history since World War I where women were part of the Army/Navy Nurse Corp," said Boyd. "During World War II, in Pearl Harbor, a woman chief nurse at Hickman field,

1st Lt Annie Fox, was the first of many Army nurses to receive a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star."

"Look at the Citadel and the Academy," said Boyd. "The first 100 women were allowed to enter the Academy in 1976. Role models like those women and Billy Jean King in Tennis and many others are out there. Women are doing it all. There are numerous women doing great things for our country."

Boyd stressed the aim of the celebration and the learning experiences that are available to soldiers who wished to learn more about women's equality and the struggles and strides that have been made in the Army and in this country.

"I hope that the people come with an open mind to be educated on the things that women have brought to this country and the struggles and sacrifices that women have made throughout history," said Boyd.

"Come learn and see the contributions that women have made to this country and the contributions that will continue to be made. Women are going to start taking a lot of offices and doing things that they haven't done in the past because we are continuing to grow."

For more information on the Women's Equality day celebration contact the Post Equal Opportunity Office at 239-2928.

Hours change at Custer Hill Swimming Pool

By William Biles
Staff Writer

It's not the heat, it's the humidity. What's the difference? Either way you look at it, it's hot.

A good place to beat the heat during this last month of summer is at the Custer Hill Swimming Pool.

"Coming here is a great way to beat the heat. The waters isn't really that cold, but it feels real refreshing," said Courtney Townsend, lifeguard, Custer Hill Swimming Pool.

The Custer Hill Pool isn't just the best pool to go to and beat the heat; it is the only operating public pool on Fort Riley.

"This is the only pool open on post right now. The Main Post Pool is closed for maintenance and Eyster Pool is closed due to all of the deployments and it was

deemed unnecessary to keep it open," said Townsend.

The hours for the pool will be changing due to schools reopening Aug. 18.

"The pool hours are from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. everyday. The hours are slated to change from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Aug. 18 due to the start of school," said Thomas May, lifeguard, Custer Hill Pool. "The pool will be open the rest of the summer and will close after the Labor Day weekend."

There are other reasons to go to the pool than to beat the heat.

"I bring the kids to the pool because it gives them a chance to get out and play and burn off some of their energy," said Kimberly Helmling, patron. "It's a very nice pool, and I would like to come out here everyday, but we only get here about once a week."

The lifeguards have their own reasons why they like the pool.

"I like this job because it is

more laid back and the people I work with are great, and I get a great tan, which is a plus," said May.

The lifeguards do more than sun bathe while working at the pool.

"The most stressing part of this job is when there are a lot of kids in the pool at once."

Our eyes are constantly darting back and forth waiting to see a kid who needs our assistance," said Townsend. "We've had well over 20 saves this season, and I've had five personally. They were mostly kids we had to save. We have the two new slides they like to use, and they get a little too confident. They think they can go down it without a problem, then at the last moment they get scared," she said.

For more information on pool hours and their rules call the Custer Hill Swimming Pool at 239 - 5860.



Post/Biles

Swimmers take a plunge via a slide at Custer Hill Swimming Pool.

DAILY UNION
6 x 12"
Black Only
POST SERVICE DIRECTORY

Hunting continued from page 8

and squirrel. Both of these can be found in abundance on Fort Riley and both have a long season for hunting. In fact, rabbit season is open year around. Squirrel season runs from June 1 to February 28. The bag limit is 10 for rabbit and five for squirrel.

Deer hunting on Fort Riley is an exciting time for both the hunters and the Conservation Division staff. Approximately 500 firearms permits are given out each year, which are valid during the posts firearms deer season Nov. 28-30 Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 27-30. Firearms deer permits are allocated through a lottery drawing. Please visit the Conservation Division, building 1020 or the Outdoor Recreation Center building 9011, for more information on how to apply for the firearms deer tags and important upcoming dates.

The muzzleloader season, Sept. 13-22, is unlimited in number of participants but is restricted to traditional and flintlock muzzleloaders, (no inlines). The archery season dates for Fort Riley consist of Oct. 1 to Dec. 2 and Dec. 15 to Dec. 31. Archery deer permits are unlimited.

Fall turkey hunting on Fort Riley can be challenging but also rewarding. The number of permits available per hunter is four. The season dates are Oct. 1 to Dec. 2 and Dec. 15-31.

Fort Riley offers an abundance of opportunities to enjoy the natural resources found on post. There is something for everyone including hunting, fishing, hiking and nature photography. In addition, the scenic Flint Hills found on Fort Riley offer the mountain biker a stiff challenge and horseback rider with some excellent views. For more information about hunting on Fort Riley, please call the Conservation Division at 239-6211.

Classified
4 x 21.25"
Black Only

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
KS Basement/8-19 & 8-22

WILDCAT CREEK SPORTS CENTER
2 x 4"
Black Only
summer activities

EASTSIDE MARKET-MANHATTAN
2 x 8"
Black Only
o-berry peaches

BRIGGS-JEEP NISSAN
6 x 21.25"
Black Only
Briggs 8/20